

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 3012

STADIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETDR, PFOR, VE

SUBJ: FOLLOW-UP TO THE SECRETARY'S TRIP

REF: (A) STATE 057157, (B) CARACAS 10:

1. AS FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, THE INVENTORY CONTAINED IN REF (A) IS COMPREHENSIVE AND ACCURATE. RE THE FIRST ITEM, I HOPE TO SET A SIGNING DATE BEFORE THE END OF THE WEEK. I MAY ALSO LUNCH THIS WEEK WITH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF OUR HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGES PROGRAMS.

2. I HAVE COVERED THE FMS PROBLEM SEPARATELY AND CAN SUGGEST NOTHING BEYOND A RENEWED ATTEMPT WITH THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

3. THE CENTER FOR FOOD RESEARCH IS OBVIOUSLY CLOSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S HEART. WE WERE UNAWARE OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE FORD FOUNDATION BUT FIND IT A GOOD APPROACH. THE DCM WILL BE VISITING THE EXISTING INSTALLATIONS AT SAN FELIPE LATER THIS WEEK AND WE MAY THEN HAVE SOME FURTHER IDEAS.

4. THE MOST INTERESTING PROPOSALS ARE THOSE HATCHED BY GUMERSINDO RODRIGUEZ FOR U.S.-VENEZUELAN COOPERATION IN AIDING THE POORER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO DEVELOP THEIR HUMAN AND ENERGY
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RESOURCES. U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE AYACUCHO PROGRAM COULD BE

STRUCTURED FAIRLY EASILY IF--AND IT IS A BIG IF--WE HAD FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE PURPOSE. RODRIGUEZ HAS TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO GO TO WASHINGTON THIS SPRING TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE IDEA AND VARIOUS FACETS OF THE AYACUCHO OPERATION. BUT I AM RELUCTANT TO ENCOURAGE HIM ABSENT A JUDGMENT ON OUR PART THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR OBTAINING FUNDING ARE REASONABLY GOOD. WE MIGHT BEAR IN MIND THAT RODRIGUEZ ENVISAGES THE ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION OF THE "WEALTHIER" LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES (REF B). PERHAPS WE COULD THINK IN TERMS OF AN INTER-AMERICAN AYACUCHO FOUNDATION WITH A RANGE OF DONORS.

5. AS INDICATED IN REF B, RODRIGUEZ SEEMS TO HAVE IN MIND A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM TO HELP THE MORE HARD-PRESSED LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP ENERGY PROJECTS. AS FAR AS I CAN DETERMINE, HE HAS NOTHING VERY SPECIFIC IN MIND. BUT HECTOR HURTADO WAS MORE PRECISE IN THE PROPOSAL HE FLOATED WITH FRANK ZARB. AS I UNDERSTAND IT, HURTADO'S IDEA IS THAT THE U.S. WOULD COLLABORATE WITH SELA OR OLADE IN THE ELABORATION OF A HEMISPHERIC INVENTORY OF ENERGY RESOURCES. I HAVE MY DOUBTS ABOUT THAT SCHEME, BOTH BECAUSE OF THE PERENNIAL MONEY PROBLEM AND BECAUSE IT SEEMS QUESTIONABLE THAT MEXICO, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD COOPERATE IN ANY INTERNATIONAL "INVENTORY" OF ITS PETROLEUM RESERVES. PERHAPS WE COULD THINK IN TERMS OF SUGGESTING THAT SELA SET UP A WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC ENERGY POSSIBILITIES IN THE POORER COUNTRIES. WITH THESE IN HAND, AND WITH THE ACQUIESCENCE OF THE COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES INVOLVED, U.S. EXPERTS COULD SIT IN WITH THE WORKING GROUP TO DESIGN FEASIBILITY STUDIES, EXAMINE FINANCING POSSIBILITIES AND THE LIKE.
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